IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer and AMEND claims in accordance with the following:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ <u>A</u> slip processing device ~~according to claim 1, wherein~~ <u>that processes a slip with a plurality of answer columns to be checked with one or more marks, comprising:</u>
<u>a slip recognition unit detecting the marks checked in any of the answer columns for each question based on image data of the slip;</u>
<u>an answer determining unit determining an intended answer for each question based on the marks detected in a corresponding answer column detected by said slip recognition unit;</u>
<u>an answer column position definition unit storing position definition information identifying locations of the answer columns;</u>
<u>an image accentuation unit accentuating pixels located in a vicinity of each of the marks checked in any of the answer columns in the image data by giving those pixels a color according to the detected result and the position definition information,</u> said image accentuation unit ~~is~~ <u>formed as</u> a pixel value modification unit modifying the values of pixels located in the vicinity of the answer column<u>; and</u>
<u>an output control unit simultaneously outputting the image data accentuated by said image accentuation unit and a corresponding determined intended answer for each question, on a display device to allow an operator to verify whether the corresponding determined intended answer is correct.</u>

3.   (Previously Presented) The slip processing device according to claim 2, wherein said pixel value modification unit modifies the pixel values to values other than the values of the pixels composing the mark.

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4.   (Original) The slip processing device according to claim 2, wherein the pixels located in the vicinity of the answer column are pixels located within the frame of the answer column.

5.   (Original) The slip processing device according to claim 4, wherein said pixel value modification unit modifies the values of pixels other than the pixels checked with the mark when modifying the values of pixels located in the vicinity of the answer column.

6.   (Original) The slip processing device according to claim 4 , wherein said pixel value modification unit modifies the values of pixels composing the mark when modifying the values of pixels located in the vicinity of the answer column.

7.   (Original) The slip processing device according to claim 2, wherein the pixels located in the vicinity of the answer column are located outside the frame of the answer column and are located less than a specific number of pixels away from the frame.

8.   (Currently Amended) The slip processing device according to ~~claim 1~~claim 2, further comprising a recognized result modification unit modifying the detected result,
     wherein if the answer column is designated in the accentuated image data, the recognized result modification unit modifies the detected result and the accentuation method of pixels located in the vicinity of the designated answer column, and
     wherein said output control unit outputs the modified image data to the display device.

9.   (Original) The slip processing device according to claim 8, wherein said recognized result modification unit determines a detected result after modification, based on the result of the mark checked in the designated answer column, that is detected by the slip recognition unit.

10.   (Previously Presented) The slip processing device according to claim 8, further comprising a pointing device,
     wherein the designation of pixels is made by selecting the image data outputted on the display device using the pointing device.

11.   (Currently Amended) The slip processing device according to claim 8, wherein

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said slip recognition unit generates detected result information indicating the detected result,

said output control unit further outputs the detected result information ~~as well as the image data on the display device~~, if the answer column is designated,

said recognized result modification unit modifies the detected result information, and

after said recognized result modification unit modifies the detected result information, the output control unit outputs the modified detected result information on the display device.

12.　　(Original)　The slip processing device according to claim 11, wherein said output control unit scrolls the detected result information outputted on the display device in synchronization with the image data outputted on the display device.

13.　　(Original)　The slip processing device according to claim 11, wherein

said output control unit outputs the detected result information on the display device for each question contained on the slip,

if the image data outputted on the display device is scrolled, said output control unit detects the question displayed in a prescribed position of the display device, and

said output control unit outputs the detected result information corresponding to the detected question on the display device.

14.　　(Currently Amended)　A computer-readable storage medium~~, on which is recorded~~ embodying a program enabling a computer to process a slip with a plurality of answer columns to be checked with one or more marks, the program, when executed by a computer, causing the computer to execute a method comprising:

detecting the marks checked in any of the answer columns~~, on a basis of the~~ for each question based on image data of the slip;

determining an intended answer for each question based on the marks detected in corresponding answer columns by said detecting;

storing position definition information identifying locations of the answer columns;

accentuating pixels located in a vicinity of each of the marks checked in any of the answer columns in the image data by giving those pixels a color according to the detected result and the position definition information; and

outputting simultaneously the image data accentuated by the image accentuation unit and the corresponding determined intended answer obtained by said determining for each

question, on a display device to prompt allow an operator to examine the accentuated image data verify whether the corresponding intended answer is correct.

15.   (Currently Amended) A slip processing method for a computer processing a slip with a plurality of answer columns to be checked with one or more marks, comprising:

detecting the marks checked in any of the answer columns, on a basis of the for each question based on image data of the slip;

determining an intended answer for each question based on the marks detected in the corresponding answer columns by said detecting;

storing position definition information identifying locations of the answer columns;

accentuating pixels located in a vicinity of each of the marks checked in any of the answer columns in the image data by giving those pixels a color according to the detected result and the position definition information; and

outputting simultaneously the image data accentuated by the image accentuation unit and a corresponding determined intended answer obtained by said determining for each question, on a display device to prompt allow an operator to examine the accentuated image data verify whether the corresponding intended answer is correct.

16.   (Currently Amended) A slip processing device that processes a slip with a plurality of answer columns to be checked with one or more marks, comprising:

a slip recognition means for detecting the marks checked in any of the answer columns, on a basis of the for each question based on image data of the slip;

an intended answer determination means for determining an intended answer for each question based on the marks detected in corresponding answer columns by said slip recognition means;

a position definition storing means for storing position definition information identifying locations of the answer columns;

an image accentuation means for accentuating pixels located in a vicinity of each of the marks checked in any of the answer columns in the image data by giving those pixels a color according to the detected result and the position definition information; and

an output control means for simultaneously outputting the image data accentuated by the said image accentuation means and a corresponding intended answer determined by said intended answer determination means for each question, on a display device to prompt allow an

operator to ~~examine the accentuated image data~~ verify whether each corresponding intended answer is correct.

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method for processing a multiple choice answer sheet ~~according to claim 17, wherein said~~ having answers indicated by marks, comprising:
        detecting a mark among a plurality of answer spaces;
        determining an intended answer based on the mark detected in said detecting;
        highlighting ~~highlights~~ pixels in a color different from a color of the mark by modifying values of pixels located in the vicinity of the answer spaces; and
        outputting, simultaneously, a highlighted mark and the corresponding determined intended answer to allow an operator to verify whether the determined intended answers are correct.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method for processing a multiple choice answer sheet according to ~~claim 17~~ claim 18, wherein said highlighting flood fills an answer area with a color different from a color of the mark.